

## AMERICORPS SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

**POSITION: Mountain Roots Food Project Farm to School Environmental Educator**

**Service Site:** Mountain Roots Food Project, Gunnison, CO

**Position:** Full Time Full Year

<http://www.mountainrootsfoodproject.org>

### **Brief Program Description**

The Mountain Roots Healthy Futures Program builds community food security by creating synergies among education initiatives, nutrition and food access programs, public health and human services, and agricultural/conservation programs in the central Rocky Mountains and southwestern Colorado. Community-driven initiatives in the Healthy Futures Program include Farm to School, Sustainable Agriculture & Community Gardens, Hunger Solutions (Food Security), and Public Health programs, working together to build and sustain healthy communities, healthy people, and a healthy environment. Mountain Roots Food Project is on a mission to cultivate a resilient food system in the Gunnison Valley by enhancing healthy connections between food, earth, and community. We foster knowledge, teach skills, and provide opportunities that ensure access to affordable, nutritious and sustainably produced food.

### **Brief Position Description**

Within a Colorado mountain community Farm to School program, you will teach hands-on lessons in environmental science, food & nutrition, outdoor experience summer camps, and afterschool garden and cooking programs to K-12 students.

### **Service Description**

Farm to School (F2S) AmeriCorps Members are part of a team serving with organizational staff and volunteers to connect youth to the earth, to their food, and to the community as part of our district-wide Gunnison Watershed School District Farm to School program, bridging gaps that enable partner organizations to be more efficient and effective at providing nutrition, health, and garden-based environmental education to rural youth.

F2S Members engage youth and community members to build, maintain, and expand school gardens through a start-to-finish growing season and to integrate them into school curriculum. Members plan and teach hands-on integrated classroom lessons to pre-k through middle school students, and lead after school and summer programs. Programs include farm field trips, guest chef visits, kids cooking classes, youth farmers markets, school lunch programs, district wide school composting, and summer camps. Members also coordinate with food service directors, coordinate volunteers, build community partnerships, and work to build new programs and community relationships. Members provide outreach and engagement at community events to promote Farm to School and the organization's programs and mission. Members gain exposure to organic agriculture,

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curriculum development, program planning, volunteer engagement, and participate in ongoing professional development.

We look for candidates who are passionate, patient, flexible, intelligent, creative, kind, caring, self-motivated team players, and who feel strongly about the importance of connecting kids to the source of their food for the betterment of themselves, their communities, and the larger world. Background or experience with experiential education, environmental studies, sustainable agriculture, local food systems, and health/nutrition, experience working with youth, strong professional communication skills, computer skills, and clean driving record. This position works in the outdoors, has components of physical labor related to gardening, and office duties. This position works primarily with students ages 5 – 12.

### **Member Duties**

- Build, maintain, and expand school gardens through a start-to-finish growing season.
- Design and deliver hands-on lessons on nutrition, gardens, food sources, environmental science, cooking, and sustainability with students grades K-12 in classroom, afterschool, and summer camp settings.
- Introduce fresh local foods through tastings, chef-in-classroom programs, and other in-class activities.
- Cafeteria reform, connecting farmers to schools, and bringing education into cafeterias through tastings
- Community outreach/engagement, such as expanding volunteer involvement in the school gardens, organize events, develop promotional strategies and materials for print and social media, coordinate and lead community workdays.
- Capacity building - Members innovate organizational systems, programs, and methods that allow rural organizations to more effectively understand and address community need. 10% of time spent on fundraising, including grant writing.

**Healthy Futures AmeriCorps Program Benefits** Reference program website for term benefits.

- AmeriCorps Member(s) will receive biweekly living allowance payments depending on term.
- Full Term Positions are eligible for healthcare benefits and child care assistance.
- All AmeriCorps Members can receive an Education Award upon successful completion of service, professional development and training, attendance at statewide AmeriCorps Member conference, and qualify for Federal Assistance programs and student loan forbearance.

### **Minimum Eligibility for Program**

- 18 years of age
- U.S. Citizen or lawful resident
- Able to pass a Federal Background check



- High School Diploma / GED, or be working to obtain one during year of service

Position Allows/Recommends

- Car recommended
- Permits working at another job during off hours

Skills

- Education
- Communications
- Community Organization
- Teaching/Tutoring
- General Skills
- Environment

Field of Service

- Education
- Environment

Eligibility & Education

- Spanish helpful
- Some College

